

Record

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BAPTISTS

Bivos hold first camp meeting in Miss.

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

The Southern Baptist Bivocational Ministers Association (SBBMA) will ask the North American Mission Board (NAMB) to fund an office of bivocational ministry, and will submit the proposal to messengers attending the 2006 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in June in Greensboro, N.C.

The resolution, which was approved by bivocational ministers attending the organization's first-ever camp meeting on May 5-6 at Pearl River Association's campground near Picayune, must be fine-tuned before it is delivered to the NAMB board of trustees, SBC Executive Committee members, and the messengers, according to Dale Holloway, the bivocational consultant in the Pastor/Leadership Development Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

The association converted its annual meeting to a camp meeting this year, Dale said, to change the setting from hotel meeting rooms in urban areas to a more serene rural location. The expansive camping facilities next to Pearl River Association's headquarters on Steep Hollow Road seemed perfect.

"It turned out much better than even I prayed for. Attendance was good, and the setting worked well for the building of relationships between bivocational ministers from around the country," Holloway said.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention provided funds for lodging and its disaster relief team provided meals. Baptists in Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Missouri, Kentucky, North



BIVOS GATHER — Bivocational ministers attending the first-ever camp meeting of the Southern Baptist Bivocational Ministers Administration on May 5-6 at Pearl River Association near Picayune were (from left) Tom Echols of Texas; Dolphus Cleveland (president) of California; Glen Aishie (first vice-president) of South Carolina; Ray Guilder, bivocational ministries director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention; Lester Evans, bivocational consultant for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina; Jimmy McCaleb, bivocational consultant in the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB); Dale Holloway, MBCB bivocational consultant in the Pastor/Leadership Development Department; and Leonard Foster of New Mexico. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida also provided assistance for the meeting in the forms of personnel, construction materials, and gifts to the bivos, Holloway said.

The bivo ministers also scheduled work projects on two churches devastated by Hurricane Katrina, both the week before the meeting convened and the week after the meeting adjourned. Shoreline Church near Kiln and Epiphany

Church in New Orleans were the beneficiaries of the work projects.

Bivocational ministries assistance in Mississippi is provided by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program. For more information on bivocational ministries in Mississippi, contact Holloway at 1758 Florence-Byram Road, Florence, MS 39073. Telephone: (601) 845-2107. E-mail: bivoldr@aol.com.

Miss. CP drops in April

Gifts to the work of the Lord through the Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) dropped in April after a record-setting month in March, according to Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which disburses the funds. The April total of \$2,336,892 is 28.2% lower than the record \$3,255,033 given last month, and 15.5% lower than the \$2,766,379 given in the same period in 2005. The April 2006 amount is the lowest April amount since 2001. Total Mississippi CP giving for the current fiscal year, which runs from January-December, stands at \$11,878,001, which is 4.3% above last year's giving during the same period and 13.8% ahead of current year budget needs. The 2006 Mississippi CP budget of \$31,314,491, was approved by messengers to the 2005 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. A total of \$2,609,541 is needed each month to meet the convention board's budget for 2006. In addition to helping support more than 10,700 missionaries in the U.S. and around the world through affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, Mississippi CP also helps fund such programs as the Basketball Team Camp for girls on May 22-24 and for boys on May 24-26, both at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko.

SBC CP down in April

NASHVILLE, TN. (BP) — Contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) for April were \$17,151,474, 6.4%, or \$1,176,564, less the \$18,328,038 given in March, and .48%, or \$81,684, above the \$17,069,791 received in April 2005, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President and Chief Executive Officer Morris H. Chapman. As of April 30, the year-to-date total of \$117,595,665 for Cooperative Program (CP) Missions is \$1,919,758, or 1.7% above the \$115,675,907 received at the same point in 2005. For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the year-to-date total of \$117,595,665 is 106.2% of the \$110,754,732.06 budgeted to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America. Designated giving of \$131,872,673 for the same year-to-date period is .43%, or \$560,366, above gifts of \$131,312,306 received at this point last year. The \$16,971,320 in designated gifts received last month is \$2,216,174 above the \$14,755,146 received in April 2005, an increase of 15%. The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. It is separate from the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Fund of which 100% of monies go to aid the needy in the general public.



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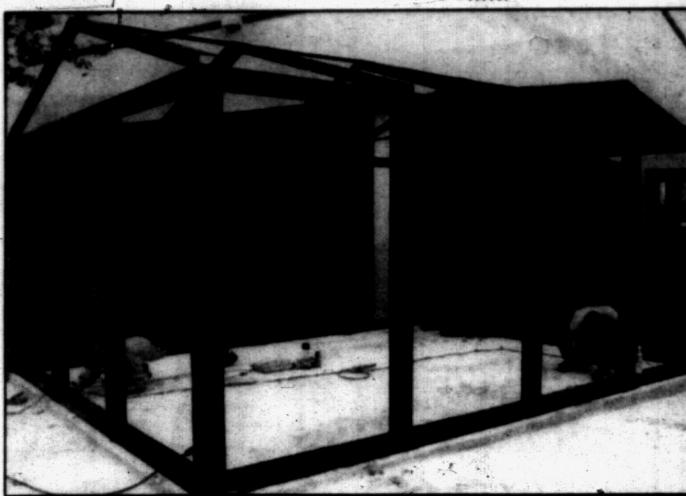
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For the babies



Memorial to the Missing Construction

On my way home a few days ago, I noticed a pair of bumper stickers on the car stopped at the traffic signal in front of me. One sticker was the standard "Keep Abortion Legal," and the second sticker read, "I'm Pro-Life: Keep Your Nose Out of My Life!" The word "My" was underlined for effect.

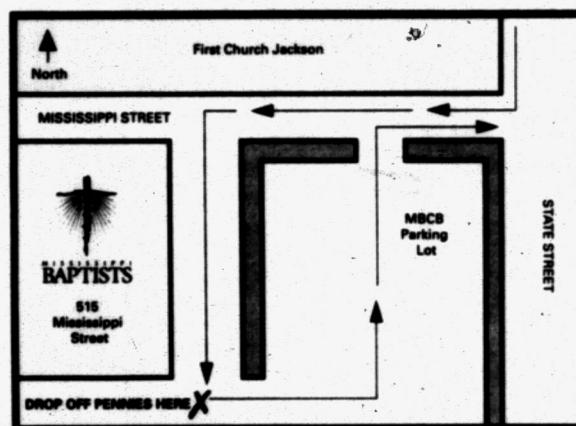
My eyes then drifted to the special-issue license plate for which the car's owner had paid extra at the tax collector's office. It read, "I care for animals."

We are a confused nation. On the one hand, we demand an unfettered right to exterminate our children, and on the other we want to ensure that animals — at least other than humans — are given every opportunity to live life to the fullest. We avert our eyes from the human slaughterhouses that masquerade as "clinics," while we file federal lawsuits and march in protest of conditions at chicken processing plants. We chain ourselves to trees to save owl nests, while we allow future generations of Americans to be literally flushed down a sink.

At some point later this year, the United States will pass the 50 million mark for abortions. When a person acquires 50 million dollars, we take note. When a spaceship travels 50 million miles, we are in awe. Fifty million tons is 100,000,000,000 pounds. If all those numbers are so spell-binding to us, why do we ignore the 50 million young lives that have been snuffed out since 1973 — the year the U.S. Supreme

Court legalized abortion in all 50 states through the nine months of pregnancy?

The answer is that not everyone turns away. There is a faithful remnant that believes to this day that abortion is the tak-



In the 50 years since he was hanged by Hitler's henchmen outside Flossenbürg prison, Dietrich Bonhoeffer has achieved impressive crossover appeal among strikingly diverse Christian traditions and has drawn the attention and praise of ethicists both secular and religious. Bonhoeffer's book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, continues to sell at an amazing clip, finding readership on every continent.

What accounts for such sustained and widespread appeal?

The clue may lie in perhaps the most widely known Bonhoeffer quote: "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die." Penned almost three years before his fateful decision to abandon the safety of Manhattan and wade into the murderous vortex of Hitler's Germany, Bonhoeffer seems to have taken Jesus' call for self-denial to heart, and succeeding generations of believers continue to take notice.

I suspect that there is something deeply imbedded in the believing soul that must celebrate the offering of a kind of obedience to our Lord that perhaps we ourselves have withheld. We long to see our Savior receive the response His call deserves, even if offered by another.

Bonhoeffer seems to meet the yearning in some way, and when we turn to his published writings he offers help for 21st century disciples on numerous fronts:

GUEST OPINION:

Bonhoeffer's lasting appeal

By Mark DeVine
Midwestern Seminary
Kansas City, Mo.

Authentic discipleship

First, Bonhoeffer not only lived boldly, but also wrote boldly — calling for a rediscovery of costly grace, genuine Christian community, self-sacrificing service to the world, and death-defying witness to Jesus Christ. The secret of Bonhoeffer's continuing appeal can be summarized in one word: authenticity. He talked the talk and then when the fateful moment came, he walked the walk.

Bible-driven discipleship

Bonhoeffer's rediscovery of the Bible out of the fog of pretentious, unbelieving, and eventually abortive higher-critical abuse of the biblical text has borne impressive fruit. Against the hankering after daily divine guidance so prevalent among evangelicals, Bonhoeffer calls us back to the concrete divine instruction in

the Bible itself and simple obedience to the clear will of God. Perhaps God is not playing hide-and-seek with His will for our lives after all.

Discipleship in community

In a culture increasingly hospitable to isolation and anonymity, Bonhoeffer reminds us that God's purposes center not on the Christian alone but on the Christian within the church, the body of Christ. Whereas churches compete in a Christian-consumer, winner-take-all landscape that affirms and rewards the spiritual shopper for spiritual products, promising to make him holy, Bonhoeffer proclaims an intrinsically relational discipleship where mutual interdependency between covenant-bound brothers and sisters defines the path to holiness and indeed to Jesus Himself.

ing of a human life, that God mourns every baby lost, and that judgement day is coming. They have put words and feet to their convictions for 33 years.

For their efforts, they have been spat upon and ridiculed as backwards and unsophisticated. They have been sued, arrested, and ostracized. Yet they persist, because they believe.

Mississippi Baptists have before us the unprecedented opportunity to remember those 50 million victims of legalized abortion — and the many more that are yet to come. We can collect our pennies and bring them to the Baptist Building on May 13, to be placed alongside the pennies from Christians all over the state and nation until 50 million pennies fill the specially designed container being constructed for the Memorial to the Missing.

Each penny represents one child who died from abortion. That's what the Memorial is about. It's not political, and it's not to condemn the mothers (and fathers) who have been swept up in the abortion vortex. It's about the babies. We want to memorialize the babies.

If you mourn for the babies, too, be at the Baptist Building at 10 a.m. on May 13 for the Celebration of Life rally. Bring your pennies and come early, because there's going to be a crowd. Take the High Street exit off Interstate 55 and turn left (south) on State Street. There will be people stationed there to guide you to the penny drop-off points.

It will be a shining moment in our Mississippi Baptist history that we will not soon forget. To God be the glory. For the lost babies be the tears.

Discipleship, truth, and heaven

Finally, at a time when the achievement of felt-relevance stops the mouths of many who detect seeker-sensitive compromise of the Gospel message, Bonhoeffer insists that the issue is not how to make the Gospel relevant to the world but rather to expose how irrelevant we have all become in our rebellion against the living God.

We cannot make Bonhoeffer walk and talk like an evangelical; he was not one, but what Bonhoeffer got right belongs to the entire Church and, I suspect, has special application to evangelicals who point to Scripture as the sole authority for their faith and practice.

When a man risks and then sacrifices his life because of his commitment to Jesus Christ, it does not make him a saint or even right, but it does seize our attention and demand a fair hearing. Bonhoeffer does not disappoint. His life and work continue to stand as welcome challenges to obedient discipleship for us today.

DeVine is associate professor of Christian theology at Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., and the author of *Bonhoeffer Speaks Today: Following Jesus at All Costs*, available online at www.LifeWayStores.com. More articles by DeVine are available on his website, www.TheologyProf.com. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

Commission releases religious liberty list

WASHINGTON (BP) — Threats to religious liberty have increased in two Muslim-dominated countries the United States has helped liberate in recent years from totalitarian regimes, a bipartisan government panel said in its latest annual report.

In releasing its 2006 report, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) recommended the same 11 countries it cited last year for designation as the world's most severe persecutors of religious adherents. The commission also expressed alarm about the conditions for free religious expression in Iraq and Afghanistan, even adding Afghanistan to a "watch list" of countries that should be closely monitored.

The commission recommended to U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice the retention of Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Vietnam as "countries of particular concern" (CPC), a category reserved for governments that have "engaged in or tolerated systemic and egregious violations of religious freedom."

The panel repeated its call from last May for Pakistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to be designated as CPCs. Rice declined to include those three countries on the CPC list when the State Department made its report in November.

The USCIRF made Afghanistan the only addition to a "watch list" otherwise repeated from last year: Bangladesh, Belarus, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, and Nigeria. The panel also said it is scrutinizing religious freedom in India, Russia and Sri Lanka.

The USCIRF acknowledged the situation for religious liberty in Afghanistan is improved over the conditions that existed under the Taliban, an extremist Islamic regime deposed by the United States-led military action after the 2001 terrorist attacks. The Taliban regime was on the CPC list before it was overthrown.

The problems for religious expression, however, have increased in the last year, according to the panel. The new constitution is flawed regarding individual rights, and the judiciary is headed by a Supreme Court chief justice who does not support freedom of religion and speech, as well as the equality of the sexes, according to the commission.

"The defects in the constitution are the principle concerns for the commission, and we continue to believe that the constitution was an important, missed opportunity in our reconstruction work in Afghanistan," USCIRF member Preeta Bansal, a First Amendment attorney from New York, said when the report was released at a May 3 news conference in

Washington," but they're compounded by the current role and power of the judicial system and the judiciary, which we continue to believe is not yet adequately versed in civil law and does not have the infrastructure and support necessary to govern with a strict sense of the rule of law. So all of these developments indicate that religious extremism, even in official circles, is an increasing threat to democratic consolidation in Afghanistan."

Iraq, which is still seeking to establish a constitution and government after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein's regime, has been plagued in the last year by escalating violence between Sunni and Shi'a Muslims, as well as religiously motivated attacks at the hands of insurgents and Islamic militants on various groups, the USCIRF reported.

"The commission has concluded that because the United States has been so directly involved in Iraq's political reconstruction, it has a special obligation to act vigorously, together with the Iraqi leadership, to identify and to promptly remedy the systemic flaws which continue to undermine the protection of universal human rights in Iraq," commissioner Richard Land told reporters.

Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said the panel included the following among its recommendations to the U.S. government regarding Iraq:

- Appoint a senior foreign service officer to report directly to the U.S. ambassador in Baghdad and to serve as the top human rights official in Iraq.
- Oppose religiously motivated violence in high-level speeches.
- Call for Iraqi leaders, with the aid of the U.S. government, to install an independent, national human rights commission.

The USCIRF also urged the White House to take action against Saudi Arabia, which was finally named as a CPC in 2004 after years of recommendations by the commission. A year after the designation, Rice approved in September a 180-day waiver of action on the Saudi regime. That time period has expired, and conditions for religious liberty have not improved substantially in the last year, commissioner Nina Shea said at the news conference.

Saudi Arabia is "one of the really dozen countries in the world that are the worst persecutors" of religious believers, Shea said. In contrasting the White House's response to the panel's recommendations, she said the Bush administration's "response on Saudi Arabia is the weakest of all," while it has enacted numerous policy proposals regarding Sudan.

The USCIRF recommends governments for CPC designation each year, but the secretary of State actually designates which countries are on the list. Communist and Islamic regimes dominate the CPC list. China, North Korea and Vietnam have communist-controlled governments, while Iran, Saudi Arabia and Sudan have Muslim-dominated regimes.

Burma, China, Iran, and Sudan have been CPCs since the initial list in 1999.

Land, who is in his fourth year as a USCIRF member, gave Baptist Press the following assessment of religious persecution globally: "In general, it's getting worse, but it would be a lot worse if it weren't for the efforts of the United States government. I would have to say the most profound truth that I've come away from my service so far on the commission is that most countries in the world would give [this issue] little if any attention if it were not for the insistence of the government of the United States that they take this issue seriously and they take this issue seriously in relation to their own citizens."



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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The International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA), the 1998 law that established the commission, requires the administration to act to bring change in CPCs. Under the IRFA, the State Department has 90 days to designate the policies it will utilize with the CPC designees. The IRFA requires the president to take specific actions against governments designated as CPCs. He is provided a range of options, from diplomacy to economic sanctions. The president also has the authority to waive any action.

The IRFA established the nine-member commission to advise the White House and Congress. The president selects three members of the panel, while congressional leaders name the other six.

The USCIRF's 2006 report may be obtained online at www.uscirf.gov.

Looking back

10 years ago

The launching of Project 25 to identify and train bivocational directors in Mississippi marks the first such effort in the Southern Baptist Convention, according to the program's state director.

20 years ago

Pat and Ruth Guldge of Grenada donate their farm to Southwestern Seminary to fund an endowment for the study of ministries to aging people. "We had only seen (the farm) as how much cotton it would grow. I had no idea what it was worth," said Guldge.

60 years ago

Plans are announced for a \$637,000 women's dormitory at Mississippi College. The as-yet unnamed facility will be built overlooking the famous Mount Salus Spring, which furnishes drinking water for the school and city of Clinton.

Judge: Cross must go

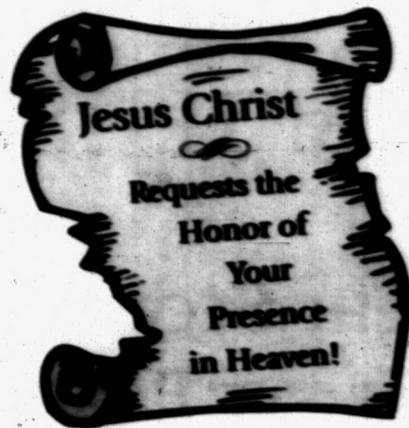
SAN DIEGO (BP) — A federal judge has told the city of San Diego to remove a 29-foot-high cross from public grounds within 90 days — or pay \$5,000 for each day it remains part of a war memorial in a hilltop park. The cross came under fire from a San Diego atheist and his ACLU-funded lawyer more than a decade ago. Throughout a 12-year legal battle, courts have rejected offers to sell the property to a private group. The Supreme Court refused to hear the case in 2003. San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders said he will propose appealing the latest ruling, a move that would need approval from the city council. The Union-Tribune reported that William Kellogg, president of the Mount Soledad Memorial Association, the private organization that operates the memorial, said he is prepared to have the cross moved to private property nearby and replaced at the present site of the memorial with another appropriate symbol to honor the veterans.

FIDO

This Fido is not a dog. While Fido has become almost a synonym for dog, this Fido is far more important than man's best friend. For years now Clebe McClary has traveled the country and been an inspirational speaker who has made a difference in people's lives. He speaks to all kinds of groups but especially to church gatherings, sharing with them the truth of God's Word and wonder out of the experience of his broken body. Clebe, a highly decorated marine from the Vietnam War, left much of his body on the battlefield. He lost body parts including legs, an arm, fingers, an eye, and the pieces that remained had to be put back together.

Clebe came back home from a war that had scarred our country and wrecked his body, and he moved on to a new day and a new way. His story told and retold is remarkable. How do you have your life torn apart and then put back together, at least what is left of it, and make any sense out of it? Fido! On the back of Clebe's pickup truck, that is what it says: Fido! For him it means forget it and drive on. That is how he has reshaped his life with meaning, purpose, and impact on others. Forget it and drive on! As strange as it may seem, most people who are stymied in life and just cannot seem to go on, are in that condition not because of what they are facing but because of what is in their past. For most of us it is the stuff of yesterday that ruins our tomorrows.

From a Biblical prospective the Apostle Paul seems to be telling us that very truth when he says in Philippians, "Forgetting those things which are behind." He goes on to say,



**YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!**

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



Directions

**Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board**

"And looking toward to those things that are before, I press on toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." The stuff that will stop you is often not in front of you but in your rear view mirror.

One of the things that will stop you is assassinations. I am not talking about the kind where somebody hides with a rifle, shoots, and kills someone. Assassinations are those things that come unexpectedly out of nowhere and seem to wipe you out. Assassinations are the problems that seem to spring up when you are at your worst, and you find yourself unable to think clearly. Your emotions have gone berserk, your mind is on vacation, and you do or say the wrong thing. You blow up, burn down, or bottom out and, in fact, you fail. You get blindsided, t-boned, and there you are crushed and crippled on the roadside of life. What do you do? You think you are a colossal failure and that it is obvious to the rest of the world as well. Why should you attempt to go on or do anything else? Certainly in many of life's failures the issues need to be dealt with, forgiveness needs to be sought and received, and then at some point drive on — Fido!

Fido is not only important in dealing with the assassinations of life but Fido will also be helpful for some of the achievements of life. Have you

ever noticed how when some people achieve something significant in their life they stop right there. They used to talk about people living on their laurels. What they were talking about is folks doing something and letting that be the end of their service and efforts to do more. That is kind of a sad thing and can rob you of initiative and desire to press forward. In those cases, doing good robs you of doing great.

Sometimes you see this attitude reflected in churches in ways that you did not really anticipate. Someone is asked to serve and regardless of whether it is in the preschool area with the children, helping with some special event, or even fixing a meal to bless and encourage a family the response comes, "No, I am not going to do that. I have already paid my dues." What dues are they talking about, and whom did they pay? They may have done some work and helped in some significant ways, but I guarantee you if they are looking at what they have done for the Lord as compared to what the Lord has done for them their scale is way short of what He has done.

Have you ever seen those folks in churches who sit around soured about life because they used to be so faithful and counted for the Lord? Now they just sit around doing nothing but fuming because no one recog-

nizes how important they are. Strange isn't it? Yesterday's blessings, successes, achievements, and service do not fill the needs of today. A good rule of thumb when it comes to achievements is just say, "Fido!"

One final thought about the stuff that can stop you from moving forward. Think for just a moment about attitudes. Your attitude certainly does affect your altitude. Just watch the people around you and you can turn yourself into a prophet because you can predict what kind of day a person is going to have according to the attitude they bring to the experience. It doesn't matter how much good may happen or how much bad may befall them, their attitude is what is going to make the difference. Or put it on a larger time scale and just watch people over the span of much of their life, whether at work, church, in social relationships, or with their family. The folks who seem to cultivate the worst attitude and, in fact, seem to have Petri dishes growing a precious strain of a disagreeable attitude, rarely make any positive difference. It is always interesting to watch highly negative people who actually believe that they are great champions of truth and virtue when much of what they do and say destroys what is good.

The longer we are determined to hold on to our bad attitude the less progress we are going to make and the more difficult it is going to be to get there. So anytime you catch your attitude drifting over into the rotten lane of life, just stop and post a sign or maybe a billboard that says, "Fido!"

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TRAVEL WITH OTHER BAPTISTS

Hawaii

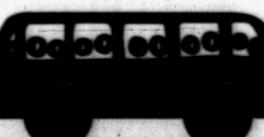
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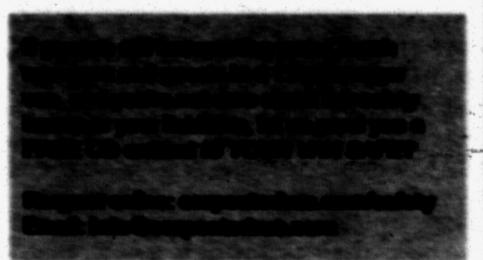
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BE REDEMPTIVE

Editor:

We have worked together since Hurricane Katrina on a few projects, and I have walked away from each project very appreciative of your representation of Mississippi Baptists. You lead The Baptist Record with great professionalism, and that certainly helps our ministry to and in this state.

However, I read Hold the Applause (Editor's Notebook, April 27) with disappointment. Yes, Bob Reccord made mistakes! Some of his decisions are totally indefensible and they cost him his job. This entire episode is a black eye to NAMB. With that said, the tone of your editorial was less than redemptive, which should always be our purpose. The phrase, "...he resigned the NAMB presidency in disgrace" was over the top. Let's remember Bob Reccord is a husband, father, and grandfather. Such words are stinging darts for a family and provide, as far as I can tell, no positive influence for Southern Baptists in this situation.

The praise heaped on Bob by Morris Chapman, Bobby Welch, and others is called statesmanship. Taking a bad situation, being as redemptive as possible, and helping the SBC move forward is effective leadership.

Hopefully, in the future, The Baptist Record will adopt such a posture.

Chuck Register, senior pastor
First Church, Gulfport

RECCORD WRONGED

Editor:

I know many of the people at NAMB, and have been involved and surrounded by many of their friends over the last few years. I have seen the vision and the heart of those who worked with Bob Reccord, and have talked to countless church leaders who had finally found the support and leadership training they had been seeking for years through the Next Level Leadership division of the NAMB. Pastors and denominational leaders from across the country have benefited from this cutting-edge effort to unite and train the new regime of Southern Baptist leadership.

They were also on the brink of evangelizing and moving into corporate America in an effort to be salt and light to a liberal, materialistic, and shallow world. All of their efforts were ended in the midst of the witch hunt conducted by the so-called religious media. I have never been more disappointed in my denomination.

I finally felt I had to speak out. It is these types of attacks that have caused many Christlike leaders and young adults to leave our denomination.

Once again, countless people will fail to hear the Gospel through cutting edge and visionary leadership while

Baptists sit around and criticize each other. I think it is appalling that our denomination would allow a small group of trustees and an article to misrepresent this man's good name, and to try to paint his alleged mistakes as moral indictments.

Kathy Adkins
Madison

NAMB 'SPIN' HURTS

Editor:

Thank you for giving us reliable information about the NAMB's handling of the resignation of Bob Reccord. The apparent "spin" the NAMB trustees have put on the bad news may have hurt their credibility and ultimately Southern Baptists' financial support through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

It appears to me that the NAMB didn't get its money's worth of advice from the outside PR consultants. I learned fifty years ago as a public relations officer at a Baptist college that the best way to deal with institutional bad news is to inform the media first, tell the public the whole true story, and accept responsibility for everything you have done wrong.

Too bad NAMB hasn't learned that lesson.

Ralph C. Atkinson, Jr.
Yazoo City

TRUTH BE TOLD

Editor:

Bob Record is probably a good guy, obviously a great speaker and preacher, and likely a very charming man. None of those qualities are required to be a good manager of thousands of people and many millions of dollars — the source of which are tithes and offerings from trusting Baptists. What is required is the attention to routine and, yes, boring financial information to assure that money is being spent according to a tight budget that meets the mission of NAMB while meeting the trust of those who gave the money.

Many might give Reccord the benefit of the doubt, but few if any could condone a trip to London for the premiere of a movie, even if it is one with which we highly agree. To frame that one trip, my guess is that the cost likely exceeded the Annie Armstrong offerings of thousands of small Baptist Churches. What are the devoted WMU ladies in those churches to think?

It took a Baptist newspaper in Georgia to break this story, and it sure looks like they were right. None of our top leaders made a statement anything like the courageous editorial in The Baptist Record, but the plain truth desperately needs to be told.

If Reccord thought people wouldn't raise eyebrows over the London trip, he didn't deserve the job in the first place.

If the trustees don't have the will, ability, policies, or procedures in place to prevent such lapses in judgment, then neither do they.

Jerry Grace
Satartia

THANKS FOR HELP

Editor:

I am a Greenville native and currently serve as pastor of Suburban Church in New Orleans. Following Hurricane Katrina, Pastor Harold Simmons of Hebron Church in Grenada invited my family to Grenada. The church helped us get an apartment and loved on us during some of the most difficult moments of our ministry.

Hebron Church will forever be dear to my heart. The people there demonstrated the love of Christ to my family and continue to be a strong source of encouragement since our return to New Orleans.

I am so thankful for my Mississippi brothers and sisters in Christ.

Jeff Box, pastor
Suburban Church
New Orleans

DISAGREE WITH STAND

Editor:

You have taken a strong stand on where casinos in Mississippi are located. Even though I understand your reasons, I disagree with your fight to pick where the casinos are located. We are not talking about crossing state lines, county lines, or even city lines.

As Southern Baptists, we

stand against casinos period, and should not be in the fight over how many feet they can move or how many casinos we have. One casino is too many!

The perfect time to stop casinos happened 15 years ago. Where were Southern Baptists when Governor Ray Mabus led the charge and won the right for casinos to be in Mississippi?

Larry Sasser
Bogue Chitto

OUTSIDE SCOPE?

Editor,

Your editorials on land-based gambling have been right on target. Enclosed you will find a copy of the official ballot of March 10, 1992, [see below] that was voted on concerning the establishment of "dockside gambling."

In Harrison County, there were 43,028 ballots cast in the special election. Of those votes, 24,404 were recorded as in favor of the proposition and 18,084 were recorded in opposition.

Please note that the official ballot specified "...legal gaming aboard cruise vessels (or vessels)..." It seems to me that a specific location for "gaming" was specified in the special election. If a special election was required in the first instance, it seems reasonable to require a special election if changes in the locations are made.

I am not versed in the legal profession, but it appears to me that the Legislature acted outside its scope of authority (in approving land-based gambling). It may be possible to pursue this area to see where it leads.

Afton Anderson
Gulfport

OFFICIAL SAMPLE ABSENTEE BALLOT

SPECIAL ELECTION HARRISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI MARCH 10, 1992

A resolution calling for a Special Election to be held on March 10, 1992, on the matter of legal gaming aboard cruise vessels (or vessels) in the county as prescribed by section 19-3-79 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as annotated and amended:

FOR LEGAL GAMING ABOARD CRUISE VESSELS (OR VESSELS) AS PRESCRIBED BY LAW 7

AGAINST LEGAL GAMING ABOARD CRUISE VESSELS (OR VESSELS) AS PRESCRIBED BY LAW 11



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

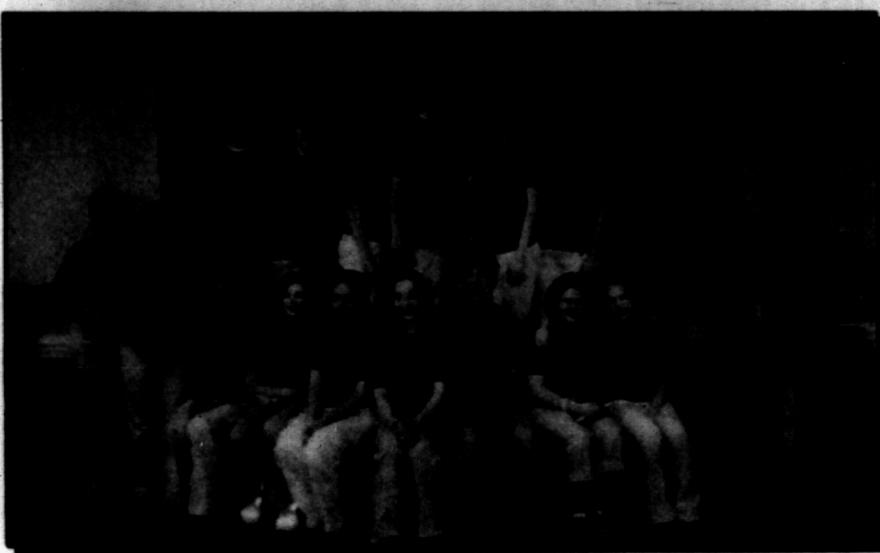
Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Youth Bible Drillers, Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale



2. Bible Drillers, First Church, Byhalia



3. Bible Drillers, Williamsville Church, Kosciusko



4. Mission Friends, Simpson Association

1. Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale, recognizes its youth Bible drillers. Shown are the participants.

2. First Church, Byhalia, recognizes its children's and youth Bible drillers. Shown are the participants.

3. Williamsville Church, Kosciusko, recognizes its children's Bible drillers. Shown, from left, are Eddie Plunkett, Brandon McCrory, Sarah Plunkett, Anna Miles, Charlie Plunkett, and Ethan Griffin.

4. Simpson Association celebrated 110 years of Mission Friends with a birthday party. Shown are Peggy Coker, associational Mission Friends director, Mission Friends, and leaders from area churches.

5. Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, recognizes its children's Bible drillers: Jordan Pitts, Kelsea Bussen, Harley Brewer, Sheldon Herrington, and Emily Eley.

6. Parkway Church, Kosciusko, recently ordained Dean Rone as deacon. Shown are pastor Don Cook and Rone.

7. South Corinth Church, Corinth, recognized Troy Winters on Apr. 9, National Prisoner of War Recognition Day. Winters was captured by the Germans July 8, 1942, and liberated from the Foliag-Bostel camp Apr. 16, 1945.

8. Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Pascagoula, received a 32-foot travel trailer from Lee Lykins, a dentist/farmer from Bristol, Va. The Yanceys lived in the trailer for five months while their house was being repaired and offered to return it to Lykins. Lykins insisted that the trailer be sold and the money go to the church for a disaster relief trailer. Shown is Yancey receiving a check for \$8000 from Lykins after the sale of the trailer.

9. Truman and Dolores Scarborough were honored with a retirement reception at Pleasant Grove Church, Gore Springs, Apr. 30. The church expressed appreciation for the over 10 years of service they have given to the North Central Association. Shown, from left: Truman Scarborough, Dolores Scarborough, and pastor Neil Gant.



5. Bible Drillers, Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale



6. Deacon Ordination, Parkway Church, Kosciusko



7. Winters Recognized, South Corinth Church, Corinth

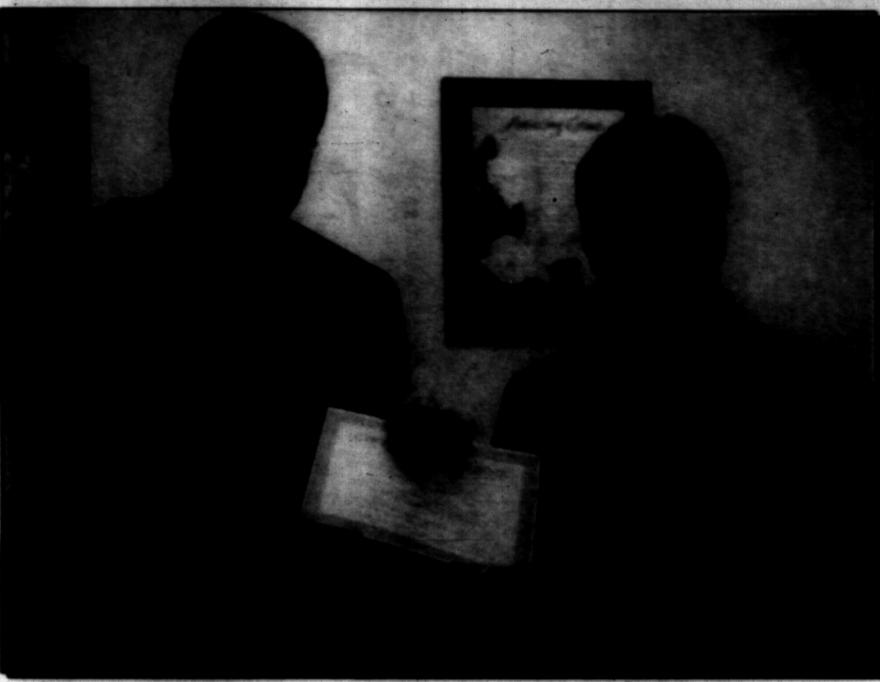


8. Yancey and Lykins, First Church, Pascagoula



9. Scarborough Retires, Pleasant Grove Church, Gore Springs

JUST FOR THE RECORD



10. Heitman and Britt, Bethesda Church, Terry



11. New Palestine Church, Picayune donates cargo trailer to Oak Hill Church, Pontotoc



12. Bible Drillers, Pine Grove Church, Picayune

10. Bethesda Church, Terry, recently ordained Henry Heitman to the ministry. Shown are Heitman and Robby Britt.

11. Oak Hill Church, Pontotoc, partnered with New Palestine Church, Picayune, for disaster relief work after Hurricane Katrina. To show their appreciation, New Palestine surprised Oak Hill with the gift of a new cargo trailer to help with future mission trips. Shown are the trailer and several church members.

12. Pine Grove Church, Picayune, recognizes its children's Bible drillers. From left, leader Deborah West, Mitchell Hunter, Mallory Cumberland, Emily Haselmaier, Derek Hunter, and leader Lauren Cumberland.

13. Central Church, McComb, recognizes its children and youth Bible Drill participants. Front row: Colby Hipps, Ivy Breithaupt, and Elise Alexander. Back row: Michael Alexander.

14. Bethsaida Church, Philadelphia, recognizes its children's Bible drillers. Kneeling, Reagan Pierce and Kurt Shannon; standing, Krissy Winstead, Nicole Jayroe, and Will James.

15. Cedar Bluff Church, Cedar Bluff, acknowledged the abortion of approximately 50 million babies with a display of 50 crosses.

16. First Church, Boyle, recognizes its Bible drill winners: Katie Brooks, #1, Katrina Horne, #2, and Sarah Thomas, #3.

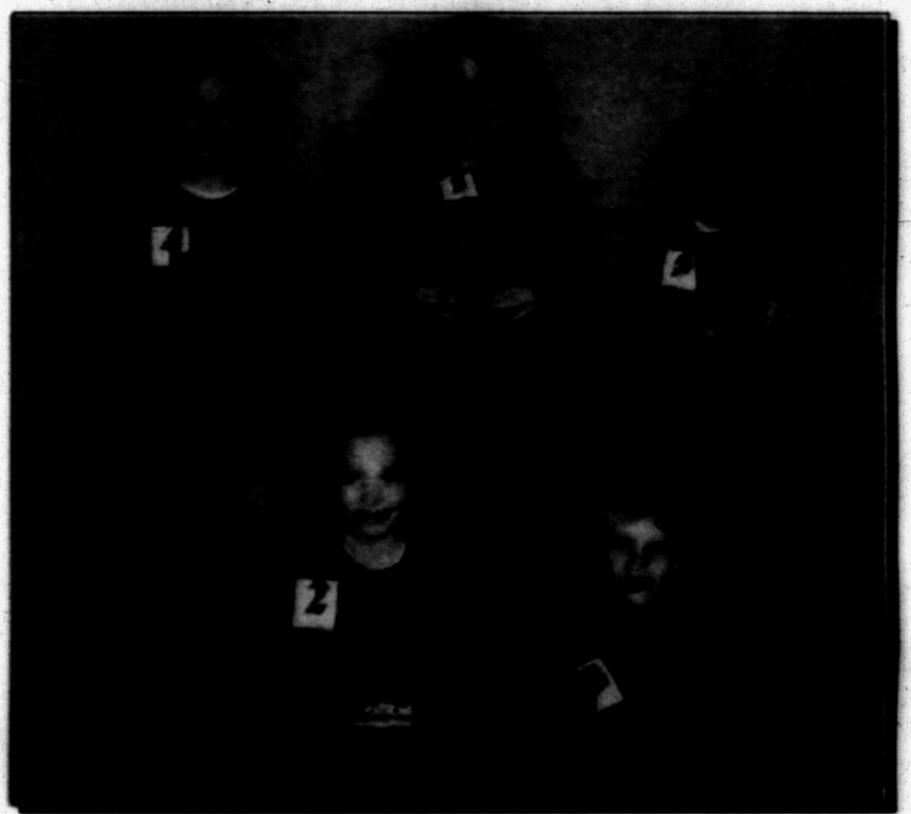
17. New Hope Church, Foxworth, has instigated a homebound Sunday School class ministry called the Telephone Sunday School Class. The church placed phones in homes and care centers so that the homebound might participate in a weekly class via telephone. Howard Bennett teaches the class which averages as many as 17 each week. Tim Parker, pastor.

18. New Life Fellowship, Oakland, will host a gospel singing featuring Ann Downing May 20, 7 p.m. For more information, call (662) 623-0009. Jerry W. Smith, pastor.

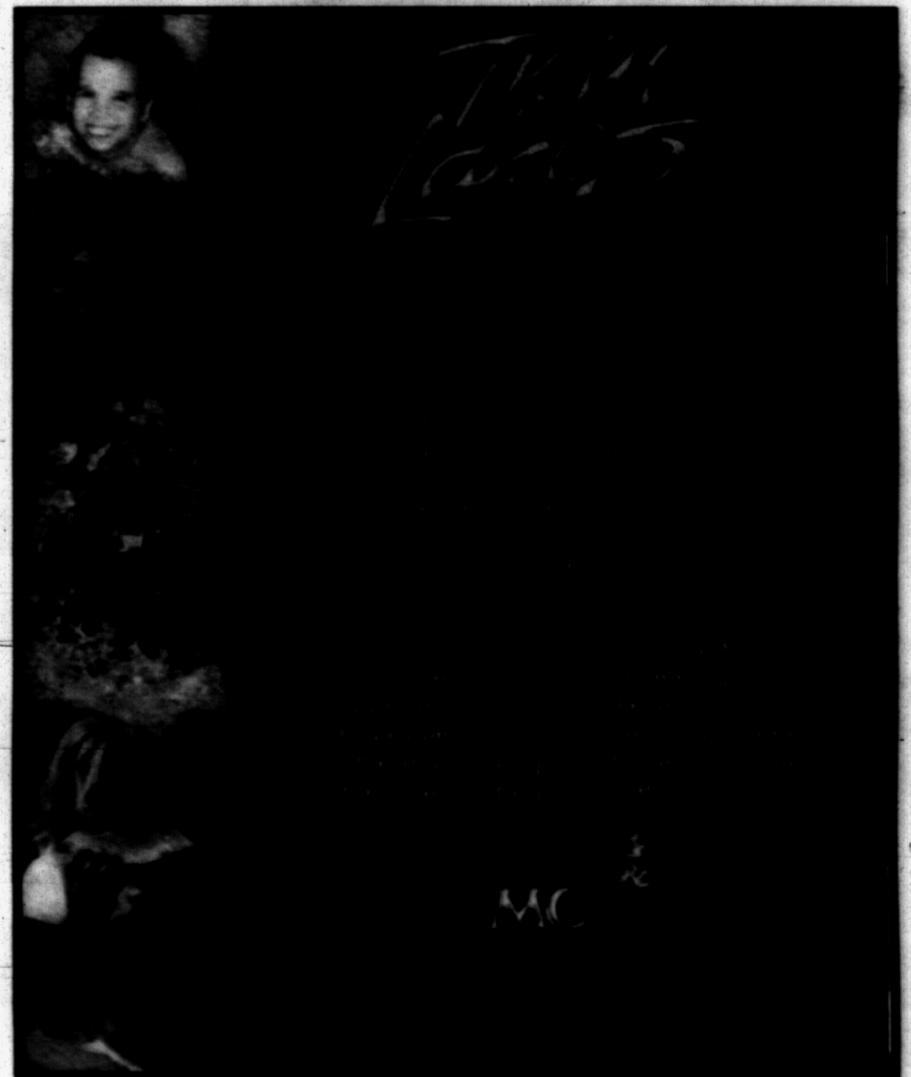
19. Fernwood Church, Gulfport, will hold its Vacation Bible School June 19-23, 6-9 p.m. for age 5-grade 12.



13. Bible Drillers, Central Church, McComb



14. Bible Drillers, Bethsaida Church, Philadelphia



STAFF CHANGES



Bernie Parker, minister of music at First Church, Columbia, has retired after 46 years in the ministry, the last 29 at First Church.

South 28th Ave. Church, Hattiesburg, has called Gregory Burks as pastor. Burks, a Pearl River County native, holds degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi, Liberty University, and Louisiana Baptist Theological Seminary. He previously served Peace Grove Church, Lacombe, La.

Trinity Church, Laurel, has called James Jolly as minister of music. Jolly comes from Oakland Grove Church, Sandersville.

Correction: West Marks Church, North Delta Association, has called Peter Fairley as minister of music and youth. Fairley has served churches in Winona, Laurel, Decatur, and Fulton and is a graduate of William Carey College and Southern Seminary.



Fairley



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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RHO, TG WPS RHZST GE
WPS TGJO DRFS KUGH
WPSF, RHO WPS ZTGJQ
GE WPS TGJO VPGHS
JGKHO RXGKW WPSF;
RHO WPSQ LSJS VGJS
REJRAO.

TKCS WLG : HAHs

Clue: K = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: First Peter Two: Twenty-One.

Wheeler Grove, Alcorn Co.: Homecoming, May 21; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by meal; Calvin Newton, music.

Trinity Church, Laurel: Revival, May 14-17; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Wilton Bennett, Jackson, Ala., speaker; James Jolly, music.

Causeyville Church, Meridian: Homecoming, May 21; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Mike McIlwain, speaker; Paul Barkley, music.

West Salem Church, Greene Co.: Homecoming and centennial, June 4; services, 10 a.m.,

Convention of Phi Theta Kappa in April in Seattle, Washington. Pictured from the left: Katie Fox, Association Member; Vickie Powe, Association Secretary; Austin Smith, Association President; Jenna Talbert, Association Vice-President; John Kelly, Association Sponsor; Brittany Greer, Association Member.

2. Cricket International, MC
2. The International Center and the International Student Association of Mississippi College are proud to present Cricket International, the recently formed cricket team of Mississippi College. Shown is Revanth Busireddy, a graduate computer science student from India, in gear and ready to begin cricket play. For more information about Cricket International, or to join a team, please contact Revanth Busireddy (coach/player), (601) 405-5675, or Adrian Dreher (sponsor), (601) 955-5112.

3. Mississippi College is proud to announce that Kerri Jordan, of Brandon, assistant professor in the Department of English, was presented with The George and Alicia Pittman Young Outstanding

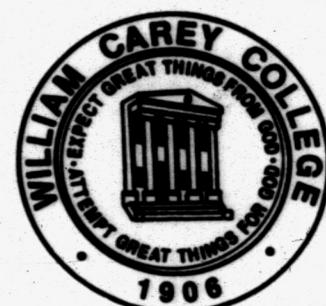


1. Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association Recognized, MC

Faculty of the Year Award for 2006. Pictured from left: Lee Royce, President of Mississippi College; Kerri Jordan (honoree); Alicia Pittman and George Pittman.

4. The Mississippi College Theater Department will be presenting Summer Stock 2006 during the month of June. For the participating community, the class/workshop experience will kick off beginning June 5 with a four-week classroom, rehearsal, performance experience in Aver Little Theater on the campus of Mississippi College. The participants will meet from 1-5 p.m. throughout the weeks and will be focusing on Old Testament stories. The experience will end with a dinner theater experience on Friday and Saturday nights, June 30 and July 1. Anyone interested may join the program on a first come, first serve basis. Participants must be at least 12 years of age. The cost is \$250 for non-academic credit (tuition rates apply to all academic credit students). A \$50

deposit will be accepted with the application. The total must be paid in full before May 30. Call (601) 925-3229 for more information.



5. The William Carey College student newspaper, The Cobbler, placed first for best layout and design at the Mississippi Press Association's Newspaper Competition held recently. The Cobbler staff competed against other four year college and university newspapers from Alcorn State, Jackson State, Millsaps College, Mississippi State University, Mississippi University for Women, and the University of Southern Mississippi.



3. Young Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award, MC

REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

with presentation from the Baptist Historical Commission, followed by covered dish luncheon and entertainment by The Florida Boys; Dwight Smith, Florence, speaker.

Center Grove Church, Okfuske Co.: Memorial service, May 14; service, 10:45 a.m.; Buster Wilson, Ecru, speaker.

New Zion Church, Liberty: 125th anniversary and homecoming; service, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Elmer Vogelsang, speaker; Roger Arnold & Sandy Shell, Kenneth Dixon - Martha Barron and Group and Shelby Price, music.



Lake Como Church, Jasper Co.: Ladies one-night revival, May 13; hors d'oeuvres, 6 p.m.; worship, 6:45 p.m.; Kathy Burns, speaker; Elizabeth Stewart, music.

Baxerville Church, Lumberton: Revival, June 4-9; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; James Taylor, Brooklyn, speaker; Kim James, Hattiesburg, music; Raymond Parkin, pastor.

First Church, Lambert: Homecoming, May 28; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Randy Hales, speaker; Jon Blouin, music; Donald O'Quinn, pastor.



Practical Principles / Christian Living

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION • VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 5

Be careful, little hands, what you type

In the past couple of years, a new method of communicating on the Internet has exploded in growth, particularly among teenagers. Many kids have a blog (short for web log or web diary) and are posting information that is available world wide. Teens use this medium to communicate their feelings, interests, or to just say "hi" to each other. Unfortunately, sexual predators sometimes use this information to get close to the children, posing as children themselves, and try to coax them into revealing inappropriate pictures of themselves or to have an actual face-to-face encounter. Some teens are revealing their first name, age, contact information, location, e-mail addresses, instant messenger name, birth date, link to their home page, and in twenty percent of cases, their full name. These blogs and social networking sites are all-the rage among young Internet users. Some of these sites are found at www.MySpace.com, www.xanga.com, www.MyScene.com, www.LiveJournal.com, and www.Facebook.com. "I don't see why pedophiles wouldn't use this tool, if this is where the kids are," said Ann Coulter of Net Family News.

Justin Berry was a 13-year-old honor student and class president when he started down a dark and dangerous path. He began with a webcam that he had hooked up to his bedroom computer with the intention of interacting with other kids his age. According to ABC News, "within minutes of hooking it up, Berry had received his first message from a man he would later learn was a child predator." This 13-year-old began running his own webcam porn site with more than 1,000 adults paying to watch. A New York Times reporter discovered the image on the Web and wrote a long investigative piece about child Internet pornography. Berry told Oprah Winfrey, "You don't realize how bad these people are. They can manipulate you to do just about anything." Berry related that at first, he was offered \$50 to take off his shirt and it quickly escalated beyond anything his unsuspecting parents could have imagined. Over the next five years, Berry became an Internet child porn star who was offered gifts, thousands in cash, and trips by predators

who at first watched him through his webcam, and then arranged meetings in person.

Berry has since turned his list of clients over to the Justice Department. He is now a federal witness whose life has been threatened by the men who seduced him.

Is your child a potential victim? Here are some signs that you need to intervene in your child's blogging habit:

- Does your child spend an inordinate amount of time online every day? More than one and a half hours a day is the dividing line between children who tend to engage in high risk online activities, such as meeting strangers offline, engaging in cybersex, or sending photos of themselves to strangers online.
- Are they between the ages of 11 and 15 years of age?
- Are they secretive about their Internet activities? Do you find that the screen goes blank when you walk by? (If they type the letters "pos," that means "parent over shoulder.")

Do they have a web site, home page or personal online profile? Look them over, if they do. See what your child shares with third parties online. Do they show another side? Do they make suggestive remarks on their site or on their profile? Do they refer to a "love" or someone special you don't recognize?

Blogging is a modern way for kids to communicate with each other and it is unfortunate that there are predators out there seeking to prey on our children. Keep your computer in a central part of your home where there is minimal privacy. Talk to your children about the dangers of placing too much information online. For more help, go to www.wiredsafety.org.

The Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3329 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 329. E-mail: jporter@christianaction.com. Web site: www.christianaction.com.

Visit us online at www.mbc.org

CLASSIFIED ADS

FINALLY AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE for the self employed. Call (800) 541-8196. Provided by Mega Insurance, www.christianturner-ins.com.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAYNESVILLE, LOUISIANA is seeking a full-time student minister. Duties would include some children activities. Send resumes to First Baptist Church search committee, 2021 Main Street, Haynesville, LA 71038.

BRANSON, MISSOURI CONDO: street level, 2 BR/2 bath, sleeps 6. No smoking, or no pets, comfortable, family environment. Please call after 4:30 p.m. weekdays, (662) 746-6702.

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC., old Bibles rebound. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call (662) 453-7424 or fax us at (662) 455-6743.

PARKVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA, seeks full-time minister of education. Send resume to Parkview Baptist Church, minister of education search committee, 2101 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, LA 71301.

FULL-TIME ADMINISTRATOR/ ASSISTANT PASTOR: please send resumes to search committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 579, Phil Campbell, AL, 35581, or email: moorescott@aol.com.

SALE: BALDWIN 6'-3" GRAND PIANO. Excellent condition. \$17,240 obo., call (704) 226-0740.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970.

DISCOUNT BAPTISTRIES & STEEPLES. Baptistry murals, heaters, lighting, seating, wall crosses, pew cushions, kringlas, carpet, signs. Church Supply Company of Texas, (800) 728-8291.

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, CHRISTIAN OWNED. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. (601) 992-2092, Don & Rita Sebren, owners.

PHEBA BAPTIST CHURCH COOK BOOKS, \$20 each. Over 500 recipes from our best cooks of the past, current members and friends. To reserve your copy, call (662) 494-6428.

GATLINBURG GETAWAY: 2 BR/2 bath, full kitchen. Walking distance to parkway, \$65/nite. Call for information at (251) 666-2175, cell phone (251) 689-9982 or pdiw@worldnet.att.net.

FOR SALE: KAWAI DIGITAL PIANO. 88 key advanced hammer action IV with AR technology. Has preset songs, 16 sounds and plenty of other features.

Can record songs into memory or plug into computer and record. 87 lbs, easy to transport. Great for small churches or gospel groups. Call (662) 419-0057. \$1,500.00.

HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

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CHRISTIAN LONG DISTANCE, 3.9 cents interstate, 4.9 cents in state. No monthly service charge. Call (866) 587-8346 or www.lowermyphonebill.com/haroldtt.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS, www.gulfshorescondos.com. All size units available. SUMMER SPECIAL, 2 night weekend \$225, 4 weeknights \$430. Efficiency unit (2 adults 2 kids), good 5/26 - 8/6, (205) 556-0368 or (205) 554-1524.

BAPTIST CHURCH IN HANCOCK COUNTY seeking to hire nursery worker 8-10 hrs per week. Fax resume to (228) 255-3958.

CHURCH IS SEEKING PERSON TO FILL THE FULL-TIME POSITION OF MINISTER OF CHILDHOOD EDUCATION. Minimum of two years experience in full-time Children's Ministry and Bachelor's Degree required. Send resume to: search committee, First Baptist Church, 701 South Main Street, Jonesboro, AR 72401.

MS POSITIONS

MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, CARROLL COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, has a need for a part-time choir/music leader. Please send resume to Rt. 1, Box 183, Coila, Miss., 38923 or call (662) 455-3892 after 6 p.m.

INTERIM PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. For consideration, send resume to Pineview Baptist Church, 1288 Clinton-Raymond Rd., Clinton MS, 39056; fax (601) 924-8378; email pineviewbc@afonet.com; Attn: search committee. Deadline: May 31.

PINEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER to complete our ministry team. For consideration, send resume to Pineview Baptist Church, 1288 Clinton-Raymond Rd., Clinton MS, 39056; fax (601) 924-8378; email pineviewbc@afonet.com; Attn: Search Committee. Deadline: May 31.

NEW PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking Part Time Music Director. Send resumes to 823 Hwy. 334, Oxford, MS. 38655.

MCHENRY FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, STONE COUNTY, MISS. seeking a music director/leader/minister. Responsibilities

include implementation and administration of the music programs(s) for all age groups, choral activities, traditional worship leadership at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sundays and 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. Please contact pastor Wayne Flurry at (601) 528-4256 or email mchenryfbc@bellsouth.net for more information.

WALKER HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, RANKIN ASSOCIATION, is searching for a part-time minister of music. If interested, please send resume to Walker Hill Baptist Church, 1110 Wade Patrick Road, Brandon, MS 39042.

SEEKING BIVOCATIONAL YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTER. Submit resumes with references to: Lena Baptist Church, P.O. Box 161 Lena, MS 39094, Attn. Rev. Jamie Moore.

SILVER SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a Minister of Music. It is a part-time, paid position with some benefits. Please send resume to: Chairman of Search Committee, 1009 Berry Lane, Oskyka, MS 39657. SSBC is located south of Progress (which is south of Magnolia) in southeast Pike County.

Franklin Creek Baptist Church

and senior pastor Shane Terrebonne will host its 1st Annual Gulf Coast Evangelism Conference

May 20-23, 2006

May 20, 6:30 pm. "Sons of the Father" in concert
7:30 p.m. Guest evangelist Brian Fossett

May 21-23, 6:30 p.m. Guest evangelist Brian Fossett

For more information call 228 475-3471 leave message

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242

www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

The purpose of The Village View is to honor and remember those who have made a significant gift to The Baptist Children's Village through their lifetime or through their estate. This feature is designed to further honor and thank those individuals whose gifts have been given to a special friend.

APRIL 16-30, 2006

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Carolyn Catledge
Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey L. Hays
Dr. John F. Chilton, Jr.
Dr. Linuel D. Jayroe
Miss Loreas Eaton
Mrs. Sandra Schneider Caldwell
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Gault
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Mrs. Nelle Gault
Dr. Linuel D. Jayroe
Mrs. Jennifer Graham
Jerusalem Baptist Church
Mrs. Ottie Sue Griffin
Jerusalem Baptist Church
Mrs. Annie Laurie Gunter
Dr. Linuel D. Jayroe

MEMORIALS

Betty June Albritton
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Albritton



Members of Ogden Baptist Church, Yazoo Association, recently served as volunteers for The Baptist Children's Village. The group did maintenance work on the wrought iron fence at the India Nunnery campus.

Harley Alderson
Mr. Allan Loper
Mrs. Anita Aldred
Ms. Judy White
Mrs. Lois Mae Austin
Dr. & Mrs. John K. Perry Sr.
Mrs. Lucille Bailey
Dr. & Mrs. John K. Perry Sr.
Mr. Charles Barnes
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Allen
Husband of Jean Bingham
Mrs. Maurine Jefcoat
Mr. Larry Bowman
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Allen
Hugh Brister
Dr. & Mrs. Frank Gunn
Jerry Bullock
Mr. & Mrs. Al M. Holmes
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Mrs. Sandra Schneider Caldwell
Mrs. Reba Sue Carwile
Dr. & Mrs. John K. Perry Sr.
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Cleo Case
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Katherine Tatum Collins
Mrs. Grace L. Tatum
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Mrs. Berniece O. Wicker
Lillian Cork
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Mrs. Bobbie Crum
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Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Hurdle
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Mrs. Helen Palmer
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Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan Jr.
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Vernon Hancock
Mr. & Mrs. Larry R. Sasser
Mr. Wallace Ray Hardy
Mr. Russell Hardy & Family
Mr. Charles L. Nored
Mrs. Lucille Hardy
John L. Rhea

The Baptist Children's Village Mother's Day Offering

Sunday, May 7, 2006

Goal \$380,000

Ms. Helen Russom	Bobby & Joan Green
Olivia Rhodes	Jill Green
Mr. & Mrs. Icem Chaney	Clay & Tracy Speights
Mary Riddell	Bobby Smith
Frances Hamner	Mr. Donald A. Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Glen King	Bernard Robinson
Roy & Joy Cliburn	Mr. & Mrs. C. Gene Cryder
Ever C. McNeese	Mr. & Mrs. James F. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Rogers	Earl Routh
Mrs. Ruth Melton	Mrs. Alice F. Herbison
Mr. George Hart, Jr.	Claudia Burns Rowsey
Mary Middleton	Mr. Jeffrey Mark Scobey
Mrs. Lonnie L. Smith	Mrs. Dot Runnels
Gerald Monk	Dr. & Mrs. Rory Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Larry R. Sasser	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth E. Lee
Kathy K. Mooney	Mika Sanders
Mark & Elisabeth Noel	Bruton Farms
Mr. A. L. Moser	Mrs. Patsy Shaw
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Edwards	Mike & Susie Daughdrill
Mr. Runt Moser	Alice Steen Simmons
Mr. Clarence M. Shannon	Mrs. Frances S. Chancellor
Mrs. Estelle Mosley	Lawrence Simon
Mr. & Mrs. Bernice O. Wicker	Mrs. Margaret (Peggy) Odgen
Ruth "Sis" Graham Norwood	Mr. & Mrs. Homer G. Willingham
Mrs. June Ezell	Beverly Smith Olds
Catherine T. O'Quin	Capt. Hugh W. Olds Jr.
Mrs. Louise F. Cathey	Milton & Myra Polk
Mrs. Margaret (Peggy) Odgen	Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Hutchins
Mr. & Mrs. Homer G. Willingham	Myra Polk
Edith Simpson	Dr. & Mrs. Lee Lee
Sister of JeAnne Tapp	Mr. & Mrs. Mack Grubbs
Glenda & Jerry Fry	Mrs. Myrtle C. Maddox & Family
Rachel Trame	Dr. & Mrs. Frank Gunn
	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Smith
	James Pollard
	Mr. & Mrs. Travis Fulgham
	Howard Pounds
	Mr. & Mrs. Glen King
	Mellie Pritchard
	Mrs. Elsie J. Sumrow
	Mrs. Albert M. Ray, Jr.
	Mrs. Maurine Jefcoat
	Russell Reeves
	Mr. Esther J. Alford
	Mike Reid
	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Lowery
	& Family
	John L. Rhea

The Baptist Children's Village

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BCV HEADLINES

Job Opening
The Baptist Children's Village has an immediate opening for the position of Health Services Coordinator on the India Nunnery Campus in Jackson, Mississippi. Responsibilities include:

S.A.F.E. TRACK
An individual plan of care is made for each child that comes to the ministry of The Baptist Children's Village. Staff work together to place every child on the S.A.F.E. Track, assessing and building a strong foundation in each of four critical areas:

We hope you enjoy exploring the ministry of The Baptist Children's Village via this website. With the help of friends all over Mississippi and beyond, staff on five BCV campuses are providing a safe place for nearly 350 Mississippi children every year.

Visit The Baptist Children's Village website to access these latest features:

[Order Mother's Day Offering Materials](#)

[Order BCV 2006 VBS Leader FREE](#)

[Resource Guide: Adventures in Missions](#)

[Register for the 2006BCV Alumni Reunion](#)

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Hannah: Determined Devotion

1 Samuel 1:1-2, 6-7, 10-13, 15-18, 20, 27-2:2

By Huey Dedmon

I have never met anyone who has not dreamed of having the perfect life. Most of us have grown up with the idea of living the perfect American dream. It often seems that because we live in America, we expect the perfect life to be one of our rights. The fact remains though that life is not perfect, we all face difficulties. Life is filled with much joy, but it is also filled with much pain, unhappiness, and many disappointments. Our passage this Mother's Day deals with the story of Hannah. (HCSB, ch.1-2)

Hannah experienced a time in her life when things were not going like she dreamed they would. Hannah was one of the two wives of Elkanah. She was childless. (HCSB, v. 2) and Elkanah's other wife had birthed

several children. In Jewish life this was not the way things were supposed to be. Not only did the customs of the day allow a man to have more than one wife, a wife that was childless was considered to be less of a person and certainly less of a wife. To make things worse, Peninnah, Elkanah's other wife would tease and taunt Hannah every year as they traveled to make their yearly sacrifice to the Lord at Shiloh. (v. 7) This was a desperate situation for Hannah, and she spent many hours crying while dealing with the taunting of Peninnah. She was broken hearted and revealed her broken heartedness to the Lord. (v. 10)

While Hannah was dealing with this seemingly impossible situation, she reveals to us a very important Christian char-



Dedmon

acter trait. In times of trouble where do you turn? Who do you go to for help? Hannah turned to the Lord. (v. 10-11) She prayed earnestly to the "Lord of Hosts." (v. 11) It is worthy for us to note here that the term "Lord of Hosts" first

Old Testament usage occurs in 1 Samuel 1:3. This name for God carries with it the significance that this is the God the Israelites depend on for help. Hannah recognized her dependence on the one true God. She poured her heart out to the God she had devoted her life to. When difficulties seem to fill every moment of your life, where do you turn or better yet, who do you turn to? I believe we will most often turn to the place where our devotion lies. Even when no one else understands, we can always trust that God does understand. We can take our most desperate situations, even our most serious family situations, to the Lord and

pour our hearts out to Him. He will hear us!

Another Christian character trait that Hannah displays for us is that of trust. Many times we bring our petitions before the Lord, but fail to trust Him for an answer. Hannah petitioned the Lord and God granted her petition. Scripture says that "after some time" (v. 20), Hannah became pregnant and bore a son, Samuel. How much time passed we do not know. We must always remember that God's time is not always our time. Hannah's responsibility to her vow to the Lord was to remain a faithful servant whether her prayer was answered or not. God chose to grant Hannah's request for a son, but He does not always grant every request that is made of Him. God's response to any situation is always based on His sovereign will. God will do whatever He needs to do to accomplish his will. Sometimes he grants miraculous, unexplained healing. At other times healing is accomplished through the skills of doctors

and the power of medicines. Many times He allows our situations to work themselves out according to the laws of nature He set in motion when He created the earth. But always our response is to be completely devoted to Him. Even though it was some time before Hannah's situation began to change, she trusted in the Lord.

How often in my own life have I failed to honor the Lord when I did not follow through with the commitments I have made to Him? Hannah made a vow to give her son to the Lord, and she did just that. (v. 27-28) When Samuel was three years old she took him to the temple at Shiloh and gave him to Eli, the priest. How do we honor God when He answers our prayer as we wanted? How do we honor Him when the answer is not what we want? The key here is to honor God by remaining devoted to the task He has given us and to the commitment we have made to Him.

Dedmon is minister of education at First Church, Grenada.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Accept God's Free Offer

Isaiah 55:1-13

By Lori Clendinning

Anyone who has access to a television has heard of those "amazing" offers by individuals and companies. You know the kind: You better act now! Operators are standing by! Time is running out!

A lot of people take advantage of these kinds of offers. Indeed, many people are by nature bargain hunters. They seek the best value at the best price. They especially enjoy getting freebies. An entire generation has grown up with a "Happy Meal" mentality, where a fun toy comes as a prize with lunch or supper. The value meal has become a standard issue at many restaurants, although there might be a decline in the actual value one gets.

Many people today, however, neglect spiritual values. To all people God offers the best value of all. He offers for free that which genuinely satisfies people's deepest need. Jesus Christ paid the ultimate price for the offer of abundant life. The only requirement is that a person hunger and thirst for the salvation He freely offers.

This week's lesson in Isaiah 55 highlights the prophet's invitation to those who would repent and turn to God. Isaiah invites people to listen and respond to God's offer of "what is good... the richest of fare... an everlasting covenant." Their hunger and thirst had to be genuine, their repentance sincere.

The chapter opens with the first two verses as that coming from a water vendor, an indi-



Clendinning

vidual who was part of the normal commercial activity in the Near East. Water was essential for daily living. Yet rather than paying a costly amount for this luxurious necessity, God's offer of living water is free of charge.

During King Hezekiah's reign 715-686 BC, the only natural spring was that of Gihon, emerging from a cave outside the city wall. Hezekiah constructed a 600-yard tunnel directly flowing from the spring through the hillside rock. The water flowed underneath the southeastern part of the city wall directly into Jerusalem.

Hezekiah's plan was of great military importance, ensuring that his people could have access to a water source inside the city in time of warfare. Enemies would not have access to the city's water source because Hezekiah had the cave sealed up. The water flowed into a reservoir called the Pool of Siloam and it was there that ven-

dors could fill up their containers and transport them into the marketplace so that people could purchase water for their drinking, bathing, and cooking needs.

That daily need of water is still a requirement for our lives today. God's offer of abundant life is the best offer we will ever be offered. No better value, no better offer will ever be presented.

In verses 8-11, Isaiah makes a comparison between rain and God's Word. In the ancient Near East rain meant the difference between life and death. Physical drought was deadly, and so is spiritual drought. As believers in this God-starved world, we, too, are a dry and thirsty land, in need of God's watering. Both rain and God's Word achieve the purposes of blessing and life-giving for which they are intended. Rain is essential for physical life while God's Word is essential for spiritual life.

Those who receive God's Word, including His free offer of abundant life, experience the blessing of its purpose. We can

know His presence as He sprinkles His Holy presence into our lives. Other times, we are deluged with His Divine existence. Note that, in verse 12, those who returned to God in repentance experienced great joy. Earth broke forth in song and applause. All believers who accept God's free offer of abundant life experience bountiful jubilation.

In verse 13, spiritual fruitfulness is spoken of by Isaiah. Instead of thorn bushes that prick and repel, pine trees grow to offer shelter. Instead of brier patches that tear and stab, the fragrant myrtle blooms and gives fragrance. God takes what is hurtful and ugly, bringing forth healing and beauty. What He does with the earth, He will do with yielded, willing hearts.

I don't know about you, but I want to "go out in joy and be led forth in peace." What an offer! Better act today! He is standing by, but time is running out!

Clendinning is a member of First Church, Brandon.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Record

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

MC retains right to use 'Choctaws'

CLINTON, Ms. (Special) — Mississippi College has been notified that the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has removed its policy restrictions on the use of the name "Choctaw" in reference to the Baptist-affiliated school's athletic programs.

The NCAA for several years has been in the process of reviewing its member schools' usage of names and symbols associated with Native American and other ethnic groups.

MC President Lee Royce said, "We are pleased with the ruling from the NCAA giving their approval of our request to remove Mississippi College from the list of institutions subject to the policy's restrictions.

"We are very appreciative of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' support of our use of the Choctaw name, and look forward to continuing our mutual relationship of respect and cooperation.

"Mississippi College is honored to continue to be known as the Choctaws."

Mississippi College in Clinton is one of three institutions of higher learning affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The others are William Carey College in Hattiesburg and Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain.



1. Officers of the Conference of MS Baptist Evangelists

1. Officers of the Conference of Mississippi Baptist Evangelists are Gene Douglas, Vice-President; Jad Khalaf, President; and Wayne Hudson, Secretary-Treasurer.

2. First Church, Grenada, recognizes the children who participated in its Bible drills. From left: Caleb Cummings, leader Karen Connerley, and Anna Cates Hutchinson.

3. Morning View Church, Mantachie, hosted the asso-

cational WMU conference. The group raised \$400 for a water purification system. Shown, from left, are Kristy Carr, Inez Smith, Kaye Graham, Lisa Graham, and Marc Howard.

4. Border Springs Church, Caledonia, recognizes its Bible drill participants. From left: Alaina Ulmer, Cheyenne Atkins, Jennifer Blair, Alicia Smith, Cheryl Fairchild, Matthew Brock, Ashley Moore, Ashley Dodson, and Leslie Williams.



4. Bible Drillers, Border Springs Church, Caledonia



2. Bible Drillers, First Church, Grenada



3. WMU Conference, Morning View Church, Mantachie

5. Al Green, pastor of First Church, Bay St. Louis, addressed approximately 350 disaster relief leaders at the Disaster



Green

Relief Roundtable in Arlington, Tex., Apr. 25-27.

6. Moorhead Church, Mid-Delta Association, surpassed its \$750 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Goal by collecting \$1215. Larry W. Haggard, pastor.

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